

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

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19 December 1981

Significant Events Preceding Martial Law

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Press

25 November

Sit-in strike begins at fire-fighters' academy in Warsaw.

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Press 1-2 December Meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers in Bucharest.

Press 1-4 December Meeting of Warsaw Pact Defense Ministers in Moscow. There may have been some discussion of martial law between Polish representative, General Siwicki, Chief of the General Staff, and the Soviets.

Press 2 December Expulsion of striking cadets from the firefighters' academy in Warsaw by Polish police and military forces.

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Press 3 December Solidarity's Presidium, meeting in Radom, declares that the government has destroyed the chances for national accord and that Solidarity has decided to consider a general strike.

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Press 8 December Polish Archbishop Glemp sends a letter to Jaruzelski urging him not to ask the Parliament to ban strikes.

Press 7 December Polish government releases excerpts of tape recordings of Solidarity's Radom meeting on 3 Dec.

Press 7 December Solidarity announces that National Commission will meet in Gdansk on 11-12 Dec.

[REDACTED] 9 December Soviet military personnel at the General Staff auxiliary communications center in Rembertow are ordered on alert. 25X1

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Press

10 December

After several days of low key commentary, TASS is extremely critical of Solidarity and alludes to Solidarity's plans for armed uprising. By mentioning the planned mass demonstrations on 17 December, TASS seemingly suggests a deadline for action by the Polish authorities.

[REDACTED] 10 December

A Soviet naval infantry detachment from the Baltic Fleet was in northwest Poland, possibly to protect the Soviet naval base in Swinoujscie.

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Press

11-12 December

Meeting of Solidarity's National Commission in Gdansk.

Possible Key Deadlines

Press

15 December

Scheduled release of Polish conscripts whose term of service was extended for 2 months in mid-October. If the government had waited until after this date to impose martial law, it would have had to announce another extension of military service which could have led to a backlash on the part of the general public and the conscripts who were affected.

Press

17 December

Anniversary of Gdansk riots of 1970 and scheduled day for mass demonstrations by Solidarity. The authorities may have

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anticipated that public opinion
would swing sharply in favor of
Solidarity on the anniversary
of the killing of workers by
police and military forces.

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